



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 November 2003

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- U.S. Newswire reports the Transportation Security Administration has issued security directives to require random inspection of air cargo and to require foreign all-cargo air carriers to comply with the same cargo security procedures that domestic air carriers must follow. (See item [7](#))
- CIDRAP reports the Food and Drug Administration has advised the public to consider avoiding raw or lightly cooked green onions in the light of evidence linking them to recent hepatitis A outbreaks. (See item [10](#))
- The BBC reports Britain's security services have been put on their second highest state of alert following warnings about possible terrorist plans by al Qaeda supporters from North Africa. (See item [24](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *November 17, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency* — PEMA director announces nuclear exercise at Limerick generation station. Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Director David M. Sanko said a federally required exercise to review the ability of state, county and municipal governments and the utility to respond to an

**accident will be held at the Limerick Nuclear Generating Station in Montgomery, PA, on Tuesday, November 18.** The exercise, which will begin in the afternoon, will include full-time and volunteer disaster response personnel in Montgomery, Bucks, Berks, Chester and Lehigh counties and involve municipalities, school districts and other support organizations. "It is essential that disaster-response personnel be prepared for all emergencies, including a nuclear power incident," Sanko said. **Sanko said that the exercise will begin with a simulated problem at the plant and will include simulated off-site notifications.** Activation of state, county and municipal emergency operating centers with full-staff response during the exercise will be the same as the response to an actual emergency.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/031117/phm030\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/031117/phm030_1.html)

2. *November 14, The Paducah Sun (KY)* — **Operator at nuclear plant falls asleep. At the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Paducah, KY, an employee of the United States Enrichment Corporation (the operator of the facility) has been suspended for falling asleep Thursday, November 13, in a building where a hazardous chemical is withdrawn from production.** Managers found the worker leaning back in a chair at 2:30 a.m. and escorted him from the plant, said Public Affairs Manager Georgann Lookofsky. "There were two operators there," she said, noting that the other person was working outside the building. "They have audible alarms so they can work outdoors." Lookofsky said the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was notified. Lookofsky said the incident was "a clear violation" of plant policies and procedures and could result in a range of punishment, including termination. **The building, amid the 740-acre fenced area of the plant, is where a gas called depleted uranium hexafluoride is withdrawn from piping into large cylinders and allowed to cool into a material that resembles rock salt. Tens of thousands of the cylinders are stored at the plant. Spent UF<sub>6</sub> is hazardous because it releases caustic hydrogen fluoride if it comes into contact with moisture in the air.**

Source: [http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\\_newsarticle1\\_krt.htm?SMDOCID=knightridder\\_2003\\_11\\_14\\_krtbn\\_0000-0271-PA-NUKE-SAFETY&SMContentSet=0](http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_krt.htm?SMDOCID=knightridder_2003_11_14_krtbn_0000-0271-PA-NUKE-SAFETY&SMContentSet=0)

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

3. *November 14, Air Force Press News* — **Elmendorf first to field new AIM-9X. The 12th and 19th fighter squadrons at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska are the first operational units within the Department of Defense (DoD) to field and train with the new AIM-9X Sidewinder. The AIM-9X is the newest and most technologically advanced version of the infrared-guided Sidewinder missile family.** It has undergone an extensive and highly successful flight-test program, complemented by a sophisticated and accredited modeling and simulation capability. The missile is a DoD flagship program for modeling simulation, saving

more than \$50 million in development costs. "The F-15 (Eagle) is the most deadly air-to-air fighter the world has ever known," said Capt. Randy Gordon, a weapons and tactics officer with the 3rd Operations Support Squadron. "And the AIM-9X is one more deadly weapon we can add to our inventory that will make an enemy pilot think twice before taking off." The program scored 18 successes in 19 guided flights during development testing and completed 22 operation evaluation firings. The missile has also undergone more than 3,500 hours of rigorous flight testing. **Air Force officials plan to buy 5,080 AIM-9X missiles during a planned 18-year production run.**

Source: <http://www.af.mil/stories/story.asp?storyID=123006019>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

4. *November 17, New Zealand Press Association* — **Fake credit card scam warning from police. Fake credit cards issued to people applying online are being used to scam them out of their money, police in New Zealand warned Monday, November 17. Police electronic crime national manager Maarten Kleintjes said the scam involved enticing people to apply for a "global gold card" by accessing a website: [www.global-goldcard.com](http://www.global-goldcard.com). After applicants fill in their details and forward a \$5 fee, they then receive a gold card in the mail and are encouraged to transfer at least US\$210 into the account. However, when the customer tries to use the card at a money machine it does not work. Police investigations found the Website was run from China but the cards were being sent from an address in Auckland, New Zealand, Kleintjes said.**

Source: <http://www.nzherald.co.nz/latestnewsstory.cfm?storyID=3534629&thesection=news&thesubsection=general>

5. *November 14, Government Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-77: Information Security: Improvements Needed in Treasury's Security Management Program (Report).** The Department of the Treasury relies heavily on information systems—and on the public's trust in its work. Information security is therefore critical to Treasury operations. **In support of its annual audit of the government's financial statements, GAO assessed the effectiveness of (1) Treasury's information security controls in protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the department's systems and data and (2) Treasury's implementation of its department-wide information security program.** In assessing the adequacy of Treasury's information security program, GAO focused on the effectiveness of its department-wide policies and processes, rather than on bureau-specific directives and guidance. GAO recommends that the Secretary of the Treasury direct the chief information officer to take specific actions to implement a more effective department-wide information security program and improve management oversight of Treasury's operating bureaus. Treasury's chief information officer, responding on behalf of the department, concurred with our assessment and recommendations. Report:

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-77>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0477high.pdf>

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## Transportation Sector

6. *November 17, Associated Press* — **Probe continues into Rhode Island plane collision that killed two.** A plane collision that killed two men at Rhode Island's Westerly State Airport happened as one aircraft was landing and the other was taking off, authorities said Monday. **The Sunday afternoon crash killed both men on the Cessna 182 that was taking off. The three people on the Piper Archer were taken to a hospital with minor injuries and released. The airport has no air traffic control tower, and pilots are expected to notify each other when taking off and landing, said Ted Drozd, chief aeronautics inspector for Rhode Island Airport Corp. It could take a year to determine the cause of the collision, said Stephen Demko, an air safety investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board. Authorities said the tail of the Cessna touched the right wing of the Piper. The Cessna then hit the ground nose-down, bounced off the runway and landed upright, Demko said. The Piper landed hard on the runway and its landing gear collapsed. The Cessna's pilot, Hardy Franklin Lebel, 65, and passenger Peter Budd Coleman, 58, died at a hospital after the collision. Drozd dismissed suggestions that the airport's lack of a control tower contributed to the crash. "There are more untowered airports in the United States than there are towered airports," he said.**

Source: <http://newsobserver.com/24hour/nation/story/1056983p-7419747 c.html>

7. *November 17, U.S. Newswire* — **TSA implements random inspections to meet higher security standards.** The Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has issued security directives to require random inspection of air cargo and to require foreign all-cargo air carriers to comply with the same cargo security procedures that domestic air carriers must follow. **Passenger aircraft that carry cargo and all-cargo planes, both foreign and domestic, will be subject to the random inspections on flights within, into, and out of the U.S. Inspections will be done by the carriers. TSA will ensure that inspections are completed properly.** Foreign all-cargo air carriers operating into and out of the United States also will be required to follow security plans approved by TSA which detail procedures for screening. In addition, plans will verify the identities of persons with access to planes and ensure the security of parked aircraft. The directives also outline reporting requirements for foreign air carriers should potential threats arise. **"These new requirements constitute important steps in our efforts to have the best possible protection for air cargo," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. "Furthermore, these actions constitute the building blocks of a comprehensive approach that will significantly enhance air cargo security."**

Source: <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=160-1117200 3>

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## Postal and Shipping Sector

8. *November 17, PR Newswire* — **USPS awards contract for ventilation and filtration system.** The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has awarded an \$89.9M contract to design, manufacture, and install ventilation and filtration systems (VFS) on their letter sorting machines. The deployment of the new system in 280 postal facilities nationwide is scheduled to begin in

**the spring of 2004.** The VFS is designed to reduce USPS workers' exposure to potentially hazardous airborne particulates on in-bound mail-processing operations. **During mail processing, the system automatically pulls air through a series of filters and effectively captures and contains 99.97% of contaminants.** The new system has undergone extensive efficiency testing by the National Institute of Safety and Health (NIOSH). The VFS is part of a larger, on-going USPS program to minimize health threats to employees and the public should events similar to the 2001 anthrax attacks occur in the future.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/031117/dam024\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/031117/dam024_1.html)

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## **Agriculture Sector**

9. *November 17, just-food.com* — **Ring rot hits Wales potato farm. An outbreak of a damaging potato disease has been discovered at a farm in Wales, leading to the planned destruction of 1,500 tons of seed potatoes.** The presence of ring rot, a highly infectious bacteria that causes potatoes to rot, was discovered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) during an annual survey. **Ring rot is thought to have been brought into Wales by infected Dutch seed.** Restrictions on the movement of potatoes have been put in place at several farms in Wales and in the Scilly Isles, all of which had taken delivery of seed potatoes from the infected farm over the last few weeks. **Defra officials say they believe the outbreak is under control and that it will be successfully contained and eliminated.**

Source: [http://www.just-food.com/news\\_detail.asp?art=55970](http://www.just-food.com/news_detail.asp?art=55970)

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## **Food Sector**

10. *November 17, CIDRAP* — **FDA says green onions may pose hepatitis A risk. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has advised the public to consider avoiding raw or lightly cooked green onions in the light of evidence linking them to recent hepatitis A outbreaks.** In September hepatitis A outbreaks associated with raw or lightly cooked green onions served in restaurants occurred in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia, the FDA said. Another outbreak that so far has involved more than 500 people in Pennsylvania is ongoing. The outbreak has been linked with a Chi Chi's restaurant, but the FDA said it has not been tied to a specific food. **The FDA said consumers who are concerned about the risk of getting hepatitis A from green onions should cook them thoroughly, which reduces or eliminates the virus.** At restaurants and delicatessens, consumers should request that raw or lightly cooked green onions not be added to their food. Foods like freshly prepared salsa and green salads often contain green onions. **The green onions implicated in the Tennessee outbreak apparently came from Mexico, and the FDA has been working with Mexican authorities to assess the situation, officials said.**

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/fs/food-disease/news/nov1703hepatitis.html>

11.

*November 17, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — New food safety and security guidelines for consumers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released a new publication, **Food Safety and Food Security: What Consumers Need to Know**. The brochure, developed by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), will be available in both English and Spanish. It provides useful tips for safe food preparation and for keeping foods safe from contamination. **The brochure lays out comprehensive and practical information about safe food handling practices, foodborne illness, product recalls, keeping foods safe during an emergency, and reporting suspected instances of food tampering.** The brochure is part of FSIS' continuing effort to protect public health by preventing and responding to contamination of the food supply throughout the farm-to-table continuum. It is the latest in a series of food security guidelines issued by FSIS.

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/11/0386.htm>

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## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Public Health Sector**

12. *November 17, Ottawa Citizen* — Smallpox vaccine. Canada's emergency supply of smallpox vaccine is to be delivered beginning in December, part of a \$48 million strategy to defend the nation against a potential bioterror attack using the virus. **A total of 10 million doses of the vaccine is to be included in the National Emergency Services Stockpile of field hospitals, drugs, and other emergency supplies by early spring.** Canadian officials stress the vaccines will be used only in the event of a confirmed smallpox outbreak. Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, warned Friday that the U.S. should not be complacent because it has seen no recent cases of smallpox. "We need to be prepared for smallpox and we need to continue our efforts because that disease could be devastating to our country if we're not prepared," she said. Governments insist the odds of a smallpox attack are low. **A plan to vaccinate an estimated 500 epidemiologists and other Canadian health care workers, those who would be the first people dispatched to the scene of a suspected smallpox outbreak, has been delayed, as federal and provincial officials put together a compensation plan for any health workers who suffer adverse reactions to the vaccine.**

Source: <http://canada.com/search/story.aspx?id=0f29a40f-7c73-4fff-91fe-b88ad60e5cba>

13. *November 17, New York Times* — **The next plague.** The next plague may be from a newly discovered infectious agent or a natural mutation that produces a new version of an old microbe. Or the next plague may be caused by a microbe that, having become resistant to standard antibiotics, spreads widely and rapidly. **"We are certain that there will be a continuous evolution of various natural plagues," said Frederick Sparling, a professor of microbiology at the University of North Carolina. Most newly discovered microbes have turned out to be "little blips that don't get everybody's permanent attention," said Sparling. But they could still cause epidemics.** Among the newer ones: hantavirus pulmonary



syndrome; Ebola, Lassa and Marburg viruses that cause hemorrhagic fever; Nipah encephalitis virus; Legionnaires' disease; and a strain of E. coli bacteria that can cause kidney failure. **For decades, experts have predicted an influenza pandemic similar to the one that killed 40 million people in 1918. Health officials are wary of the H5N1 strain of the influenza virus that led to the destruction of 1.4 million birds in Hong Kong in 1997 and that has caused a small number of deaths in humans in Asia since then.**

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/117927.htm>

14. *November 16, St. Louis Post Dispatch* — **First U.S. trial of hepatitis C vaccine. St. Louis University's (SLU) Center for Vaccine Development is launching the first U.S. trial of a vaccine against hepatitis C, a liver infection whose chronic form affects an estimated 2.7 million Americans.** While a vaccine exists for hepatitis A and B, none is available for hepatitis C, the most common of the group. Researchers expect to test the new vaccine on 45 healthy individuals, whose blood will then be tested for signs of a reaction from their immune system. The hepatitis C virus has bedeviled vaccine developers for decades because it has been hard to grow. Another factor is that the virus mutates quickly. Throughout the 1990s, for example, scientists saw the troubling phenomenon of reinfection. Patients who already had hepatitis C, meaning their immune systems had been shown the virus before, could be reinfected by a second strain of the virus. **There are six main types of hepatitis C virus, and dozens of variants of each type. The new vaccine is aimed to defeat the most common type, though it is unclear how the vaccine will perform against other strains. "This is not likely to be the final vaccine for all hepatitis C viruses, though it is an important step," said SLU Vaccine Center Director Dr. Robert Belshe.**

Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/News/Science+%26+Medicine/EFD880893EBE455186256DE1003E000B?OpenDocument&Headline=SLU+is+starting+first+U.S.+trial+of+hepatitis+C+vaccine&highlight=2%2Ch hepatitis>

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## Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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## Emergency Services Sector

15. *November 17, Associated Press* — **Terrorism drill along the U.S.–Mexico border. A mock suicide bomber and a quick succession of blasts were part of a terrorism drill designed to test the responsiveness of health and law enforcement officials along the U.S.–Mexico border.** The Arizona Office of Homeland Security said about 1,000 people took part in the drill Sunday morning, which started when a man walked into the Mariposa Port of Entry compound, shouted the name of a mythical terrorist group and set off an explosion. The man was actually a firefighter in a protective suit. High school drama students played injured and dead victims, complete with makeup depicting burns and other injuries, as several more explosions detonated. A mock toxic gas also was released. **Some 40 U.S. agencies and 20 Mexican agencies were**

**involved in the drill.** The exercise ends Tuesday after authorities focus on identifying victims and assessing economic consequences of an attack. **Since the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, many states have held terror drills, including Florida, South Carolina, New Jersey, Louisiana and Maryland.**

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-11-17-terror-drill\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-11-17-terror-drill_x.htm)

16. *November 17, Federal Computer Week* — **New Jersey tests threat database. More than 400 New Jersey first responders and federal authorities participated this past weekend in one of the largest terrorist emergency exercises ever held in the state.** The November 15 exercise — the culmination of three years of planning — simulated an explosion in a cargo container involving radiological and chemical weapons at Port Newark, which is one of the leading destinations for international shippers on the East Coast and third largest in the country. **Responders tested the Chemical Biological Response Aide, or CoBRA, developed by Alexandria, VA-based Defense Group Inc. (DGI). CoBRA is an electronic reference library of chemical, biological, radiological and explosives threat data, as well as government best practices and local protocols for responding to incidents.** The system includes software and wireless-enabled, ruggedized laptops. Participants in the one-day, six hour exercise included the New Jersey State Police, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the state Attorney General's Office and Medical Examiner's Office, the state Department of Environmental Protection, the Newark and Elizabeth police and fire departments, Union and Essex counties' prosecutor's offices, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/1117/web-cobra-11-17-03.asp>

17. *November 17, The Baltimore Sun* — **Baltimore emergency drill. Smoke filled the Baltimore Metro subway's Johns Hopkins station early yesterday as Marines, area firefighters and groaning, screaming "victims" staged a dress rehearsal for disaster — a bioterror attack.** Playing roles designated by cards that hung from their necks, the "victims" were volunteers acting out the horrible symptoms of the suffering that a biological weapon could bring. The smoke was produced by machines. But Baltimore City Fire Department Capt. David Coogan, one of its planners, said that the training exercise under the 600 block of N. Broadway, near Johns Hopkins Hospital, was "very realistic." The drill — including fire departments from the city and surrounding counties, and the Marine Corps' Chemical and Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) — simulated an industrial pesticide's release into the subway by aerosol explosive devices at the peak traffic time of 8 a.m. on a Monday. **The most unrealistic aspect was the response times of the units, Coogan said. For example, the CBIRF team, based in Indian Head, would normally take about an hour and a half to arrive. For the exercise, they were on the scene in about 25 minutes.** But after that, Coogan said, the simulation closely modeled what would happen in real life.

Source: <http://www6.lexisnexis.com/wpublisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=34&topicId=17906&docId=1:61016847&start=2>

18. *November 17, Firehouse.com* — **Legislation pending to implement Enhanced 9-1-1.** Two different pieces of legislation are pending in Congress with similar goals, of helping emergency call centers around the country upgrade to Enhanced 9-1-1 through low-interest loans or federal grants. **"We have funding for E9-1-1 on at least two tracks here," said Dale Curtis, spokesman for the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), which has**



been working with the sponsors of the bills as well as other members of the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus. Upgrading to E9-1-1 would allow dispatchers to pinpoint the location of cell phone callers to within 100 yards, Curtis said. Currently, only a scattered 18 percent of the nation's approximately 6,000 emergency call centers have this ability. One piece of legislation in the works is an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2004 Agriculture Appropriations Bill that would provide low-interest loans to rural 9-1-1 services through the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). The other bill currently pending would create federal grants for E9-1-1 implementation. The E9-1-1 Implementation Act of 2003 (H.R. 2898), sponsored by Reps. John Shimkus (R-IL) and Anna Eshoo (D-CA), would authorize federal matching grants to state, local and tribal governments for upgrades of 9-1-1 equipment, infrastructure, and personnel training.

Source: [http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?section\\_Id=46&id=22023](http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?section_Id=46&id=22023)

19. *November 17, Associated Press* — **Odor forces mall evacuation. Authorities in Atlantic County, NJ, were unable Sunday to find the source of an odor that sent several people to local hospitals for treatment and closed the Hamilton Mall Saturday night.** The mall was evacuated and closed at about 8:30 p.m. Saturday. Authorities searched the building until 3:15 a.m. Sunday, but were unable to locate the source of the odor. "A comprehensive set of air quality and contaminant testing by Atlantic County Hazmat spanning several hours yielded the conclusion that the Hamilton Mall was safe and free of dangerous substances," Hamilton Township Police Chief Jay McKean said. **Twenty-seven people reported contact with the odor Saturday and were treated for symptoms. Six had more pronounced symptoms and went to local hospitals for evaluation.** All were treated and released, according to police. Several people reported the odor caused nausea, headaches, dizziness and burning of the eyes. Some employees said their symptoms subsided overnight, but returned when they came back to work Sunday. **Fire Capt. Mike Aspinwall said the Cologne Volunteer Fire Company did random carbon-monoxide testing throughout the mall and found nothing.** Hamilton Township Sgt. George Nettles said the Police Department ruled out the possibility of bio-terrorism.

Source: <http://www.wnbc.com/news/2641886/detail.html>

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

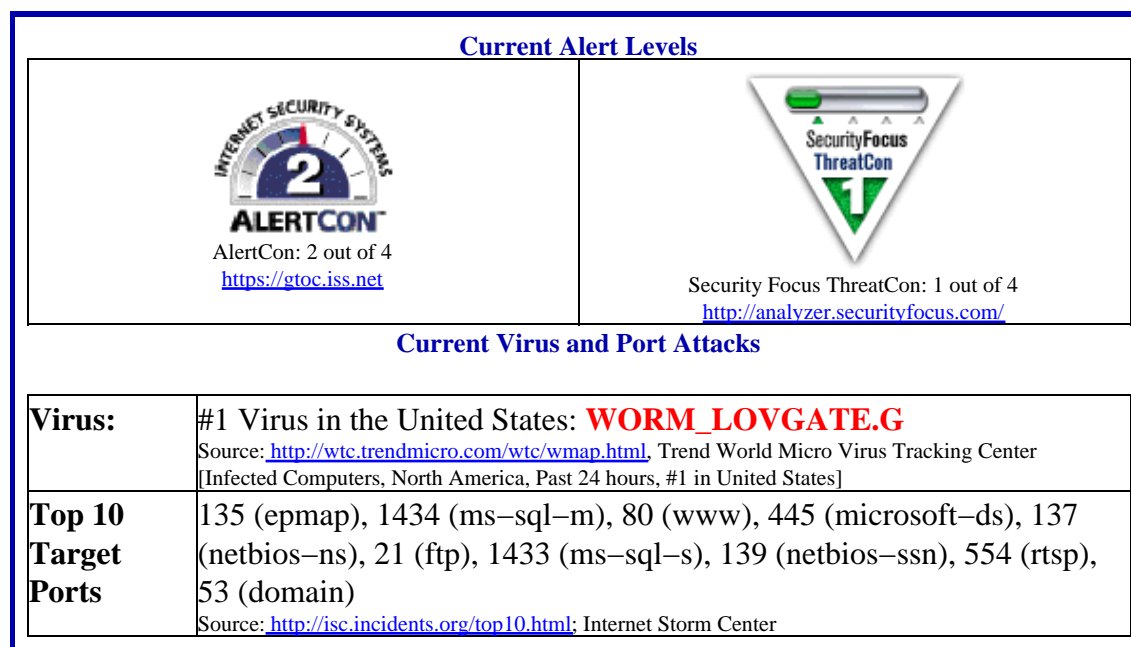
20. *November 17, New York Times* — **In Utah, public works project goes digital.** Salt Lake City and 17 other Utah cities are planning to build the largest ultrahigh-speed digital network in the country. Construction is scheduled to start next spring. **The network would be capable of delivering data over the Internet to homes and businesses at speeds 100 times faster than current commercial residential products.** It would also offer digital television and telephone services through the Internet. **With a \$470 million price tag, the project is considered one of the most ambitious efforts in the world to launch fiber-optic cables,** which carry data in bursts of light over glass fibers. The project has raised questions in Salt Lake City about the role of government, particularly from telecommunications companies, which are starting to complain about the prospect of competing against a publicly sponsored digital network. The cities involved argue that reliable access to high-speed data is so important to their goals of improving education and advancing economic growth that the project should be seen as no

more controversial than the traditional public role in building roads, bridges, sewers and schools—as well as electric power systems, which are often municipally owned in the Western United States. **The network is expected to be available to 723,000 residents in 248,000 households and 34,500 businesses.**

Source: [http://news.com.com/2100-12\\_3-5108039.html?tag=nefd\\_top](http://news.com.com/2100-12_3-5108039.html?tag=nefd_top)

21. *November 14, Government Computer News* — **NIST posts security control guidelines for comment.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released an initial public draft of recommended security controls for federal information systems Thursday, November 13. **The guidelines for mandatory controls are expected to go into effect in two years.** The Special Publication 800–53 was drafted under the Federal Information Security Management Act. SP 800–53 is one of seven NIST publications to be completed over the next two years as a security framework. Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 200, "Minimum Security Controls for Federal Information Systems," will replace SP800–53 in late 2005 and will be mandatory for government systems not involved in national security. **Controls include management, operational and technical safeguards and countermeasures that ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of government systems.** The current 238–page report is preliminary and covers only guidelines for low and moderate security baselines. NIST's Computer Security Division will accept comments on the initial draft of SP 800–53 until January 31, 2004. The draft is available online: <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts.html>  
Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/24174-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24174-1.html)

### Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

22.

*November 17, Reuters* — **Iraq pipeline bombed despite new U.S. protection. Saboteurs have set an oil pipeline in northern Iraq on fire as a new U.S.-led force was deployed to protect the area's infrastructure**, witnesses said Monday, November 17. Residents of Burjwari, a village near the Baiji refinery, said a bomb was placed overnight along a northern pipeline section carrying oil. Iraq's northern oil infrastructure includes the export pipeline, which runs from its Kirkuk oilfields to Turkey's Mediterranean coast through the Baiji refinery. **The pipeline has been closed since the Iraq war and hit by repeated sabotage.** The U.S. Army has said security would be adequately strengthened by November 15 to restart the line. The force, dubbed Task Force Shield, is made up of U.S. military personnel, a South African security contractor and local tribes. **Exports revenues from oil sales are vital for U.S. hopes of paying for Iraq's reconstruction.** Iraq has been exporting around 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) over the first 10 days of this month from its southern Basra oil terminal. Baghdad hopes to raise December exports to 1.5 million bpd. Before the war to overthrow Saddam Hussein, Iraq was exporting 2.2 million bpd and the northern pipeline was capable of carrying around 800,000 bpd.

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=RXV3MTE3SJT1GCRBAEKSFFA?type=topNews&storyID=3835317>

23. *November 17, Reuters* — **Germany extradites Yemeni cleric to U.S. Two Yemenis suspected of raising money for al Qaeda and Hamas were extradited to the United States from Germany and will make their first court appearance in New York on Monday, officials said.** Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Mouyad, a popular Islamic cleric in Yemen, and his assistant, Mohammed Moshen Yahya Zayed, were arrested in Frankfurt last January after being lured to Germany in a FBI sting operation. The German government agreed to the extradition under the conditions that the men may not be sentenced to death and may not be tried by a military court, a spokesperson for the state prosecutor's office said. The Justice Department said in a statement that the men would appear in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn on Monday afternoon. **Prosecutors said the cleric boasted of giving al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden millions of dollars collected at a Brooklyn mosque. U.S. prosecutors charged Al-Mouyad and Zayed with "knowingly providing or conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization" designated by the State Department.**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=3836325>

24. *November 15, BBC* — **UK on second highest terror alert. Britain's security services have been put on their second highest state of alert following warnings about possible terrorist plans by al Qaeda supporters from North Africa.** The alert means security will be extra tight around potential targets. **The warning comes as police plan an "unprecedented" security operation for President Bush's state visit to the UK this week.** The internal alerts are for the security services only, including the police, the army, MI6 and MI5, and not usually made public. They were introduced after the Bali bombings to help those involved in the fight against terrorism respond to changing circumstances. About 5,000 Metropolitan Police officers and all its armed units will be on duty this week to ensure Bush's state visit goes smoothly.

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/3272569.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/3272569.stm)

25. *November 14, U.S. Department of State* — **Travel Warning: Sudan.** The U.S. Government has received indications of terrorist threats aimed at American and Western interests in Sudan. Terrorist actions may include suicide operations, bombings, or kidnappings. As physical

security remains high at official facilities, terrorists may turn towards softer targets, such as residential compounds. Sporadic fighting has continued between Sudanese government forces, the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA), and various militias in the southern part of the country. There is also reported violence in the Darfur and eastern areas. **Threats have been made against foreigners working in the oil industry in Upper Nile province.** The areas around Kassala and southern Blue Nile province remain affected by the civil war. The ceasefire in the Nuba Mountains has generally been respected. **At least one American relief worker has been beaten and falsely accused of espionage. Other Americans have been held hostage.** There have been demonstrations in Khartoum against United States foreign policy. In some instances, **demonstrators have thrown rocks at the U.S. Embassy and Westerners.**  
Source: [http://travel.state.gov/sudan\\_warning.html](http://travel.state.gov/sudan_warning.html)

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The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

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